Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 4121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG OECD EFIN AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS OECD

FOR CASAGRANDE, EUR/CE

REF: EUR/CE/BARDACH/FLATIN TELCON, 5/13

1. AUSTRIA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OECD AND PARTICIPATES ACTIVELY IN ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE EXTENT ITS
LIMITED PERSONNEL RESOURCES PERMIT. FACT THAT IEA
WAS CREATED WITHIN AN OECD CONTEXT WAS, WE BELIEVE,
ONE OF CRUCIAL FACTORS IN AUSTRIAN DECISION TO JOIN
IEA. AUSTRIA HAS ALSO ADHERED TO OECD FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FUND. IMPORTANCE GOA ATTACHES TO OECD IS
INDICATED BY FACT CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE RETAINS DIRECT
AUTHORITY FOR COORDINATING AUSTRIAN ACTIVITIES AND
POSITIONS WITHIN OECD. THIS COORDINATION IS UNDER
PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF STATE SECRETARY VESELSKY,
CLOSE CONFIDANT OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY. PRECISELY
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BECAUSE COUNTRY IS SMALL, IT TENDS TO LOOK TO OECD

AS USEFUL FORUM IN WHICH TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND STATE ITS OWN VIEWS.

- 2. GOA IS QUICK TO PUBLICIZE OECD REPORTS WHICH ARE COMPLIMENTARY TO AUSTRIA, SUCH AS GOOD MARKS OECD HAS GIVEN IN RECENT YEARS TO GOA'S MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY. PRESTIGE OF OECD IS HIGH IN AUSTRIA, AND GOVERNMENT MAKES MAXIMUM POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF SUCH REPORTS.
- 3. THREE YEARS AGO AUSTRIA ACTIVELY SOUGHT MEMBERSHIP IN OECD WORKING PARTY 3 BUT HAS NOT RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH EMBASSY IN RECENT YEARS.
- 4. IN 1972 AUSTRIA FORMALLY CALLED FOR OECD TO UNDERTAKE A CONCRETE COMMON ACTION PROGRAM AGAINST INFLATION. AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING STATE SECRETARY VESELSKY, HAVE OFTEN STRESSED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS IMPORTANCE GOA ATTACHES TO OECD AS A VEHICLE TO COORDINATE AND HARMONIZE ECONOMIC, MONETARY AND TRADE POLICIES OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. BUCHANAN

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